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Applicant(s):

Tang, et al.

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NOVEL NUCLEIC ACIDS AND

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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Attn: BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9, 12-19, and 22-28.

Kindly replace pending claims 10 and 20 with the following amended claims:

10 (Amendad) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 218.

20. An isolated polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is 99% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 218.